

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1090

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to recognize Margaret Bland-McKissick, Fourth Annual Living Legend Awards honoree.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should specially recognize those estimable individuals who have dedicated their time and energies toward enhancing the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Margaret Bland-McKissick, who is being honored at the Fourth Annual Living Legend Awards in recognition of the leadership and service she has provided to the people of Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bland-McKissick has been an educator in Memphis and Shelby County schools since 1960, when she became a Special Education teacher at Georgia Avenue Elementary; and

WHEREAS, from 1966 to 1971, she taught at Lincoln Junior High School and later joined the staff of Hillcrest High School as an Instructional Resource Teacher; after transferring to Whitehaven High School, she became a supervisor with the Department of Exceptional Children and remained in that position for twelve years; and

WHEREAS, for the next eleven years, Margaret Bland-McKissick worked with the Tennessee Department of Education as a Career Ladder Evaluator and as a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Accreditation Team; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bland-McKissick's outstanding sixty-one-year record as an educator also encompasses her service as principal of Avon Lenox High School since 1994; and

WHEREAS, an alumna of Douglas High School in Memphis, Margaret Bland-McKissick received a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education/Special Education from

LeMoyne-Owen College and a Master of Arts +45 degree from Memphis State University; she is also a 1988 graduate of Leadership Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bland-McKissick is a dedicated professional educator, who is an active member of the National Association of Secondary Principals, National Academy for School Leaders, National Education Association, and the Tennessee Education Association; and

WHEREAS, a few of her many accomplishments include serving as president of the Council for Exceptional Children, two terms as president of the Memphis Administration Association, and as a delegate to numerous State and national educator conventions; and

WHEREAS, she is also a two-term Tennessee Arts Commission panelist and chair of the organization's Literary Panel, and she has served as chair of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Review Team and as a member of the State Board of Examiners; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, she was named 2005-2006 Principal of the Year by Memphis City Schools, 2007 Educator of the Year by Mid-South Arc, 2007-2008 Principal of the Year for the State of Tennessee, 2020-2021 Principal of the Year for Memphis-Shelby County Schools, and one of three finalists for 2020-2021 Principal of the Year for the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Margaret Bland-McKissick has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity; her commitment to excellence and community service is representative of the Volunteer State, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Margaret Bland-McKissick upon her recognition at the Fourth Annual Living Legend Awards, applaud her outstanding community leadership, salute

her professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend our best wishes for continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.